

Hip Hop helps Hancock County

Proceeds from the VH1 Hip Hop Honors come to help hurricane victims. Page 2

The Sea Coast Echo

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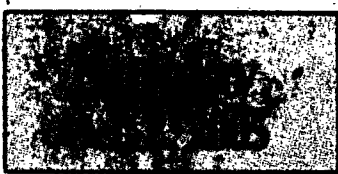
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ONE SECTION, 16 PAGES

75 CENTS



Contact us at the Echo

Call us at our voice messaging system, 228-467-5474; or directly by cell phone: Randy Ponder, 256-504-0814; Geoff Belcher, 228-332-0257; Bennie Shallbetter, 228-332-0255; John Few, 228-216-6272; or Jace Ponder, 228-332-0027. Faxes may be sent c/o the Small Business Assistance Center to 228-467-6033.

Volunteers for tree removal

Volunteers are available to help cut, but not haul, downed trees. If you need this service call the Emergency Operations Center at 228-466-8210.

Rotary Clubs in Pass, Bay meet

Rotary Club is meeting again in both Bay St. Louis and Pass Christian. Meetings in the Bay are Wednesdays at noon at Main St. Methodist Church; in the Pass, Tuesdays at 12:15 at Russell Shell Station.

Temporary housing

Application for FEMA temporary housing such as camper trailers can be made at FEMA's site at the skate park behind Daddy O's in Waveland, next to Hudsons. Residents are occupying more homes at a number of sites as installation of utilities continues.

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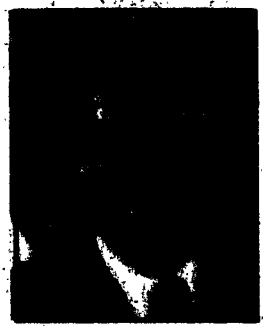
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'You can't put lipstick on this pig'

'In spite of all the devastation, (you've) had a strong will and uplifting spirit.'
—Sen. Trent Lott



Lott blasts FEMA, praises South Mississippians

BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor
"I've been real proud of Mississippians," Sen. Trent Lott said, in a telephone

interview on Thursday. "Our elected officials, state legislators, mayors, councilmen, supervisors, and the people of Hancock, Harrison and

Jackson counties. ... In spite of all the devastation, they've had a strong will and uplift-

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Gimme Shelter



People left homeless by Hurricane Katrina converged on the Waveland "city hut" on Friday to share their concerns with Mayor Tommy Longo.

In Waveland, many wonder why they're still literally powerless

BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor
South of the tracks in Waveland, all that's left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina is several hundred metric tons of mud and debris. Dozens were

killed and hundreds - maybe thousands - left homeless. The infrastructure is destroyed, FEMA won't bring a camper trailer without power and the electric company won't drop a power pole because the city

won't issue a permit because of the debris which FEMA and the Corps of Engineers haven't yet removed. Many of the homeless met with Mayor Tommy Longo Friday evening at the canvas quonset hut that has replaced city hall to ask him what the hell he intends to do about it. A lot of them said that what he and the

WAVELAND--PAGE 8

First county suit against insurance companies

Local lawyer alleges State Farm being a 'bad neighbor'

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

"Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there" may be a popular advertising slogan for the national insurance company, but two local residents Ronnie Lebouf and Hyeil C. Lee of Bay St. Louis allege in a lawsuit against the company that State Farm has been a demonstrably bad neighbor. The company has failed to honor the good faith claims of thousands of Mississippians, the plaintiffs say.

The two property owners lost their home on Dunbar Ave. and the company has refused to pay up on a hurricane policy, Lebouf and Lee say. They have filed suit on State Farm, local agent Kelly Cannon and ten others, who, they say, "represented to them that the policy covered any damages that the plaintiffs might incur during a hurricane, including both wind and water damage."

In reality the policy contained "fine print," plaintiffs say that was not explained to them, though they "relied on the defendants representations" regarding the policy coverage. It was when an adjuster told them that any damage resulting from water would

INSURANCE--PAGE 9

Church group offering hot meals, warm hearts

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER
Staff Writer

The folks from Calvary Chapels are handing out more than just three meals a day, though in a place where cold canned beans are often breakfast,

the meals are greatly appreciated. From two tents set up in St. Stanislaus' ball field in Bay St. Louis, volunteers from all over the country are investing their

CALVARY--PAGE 9

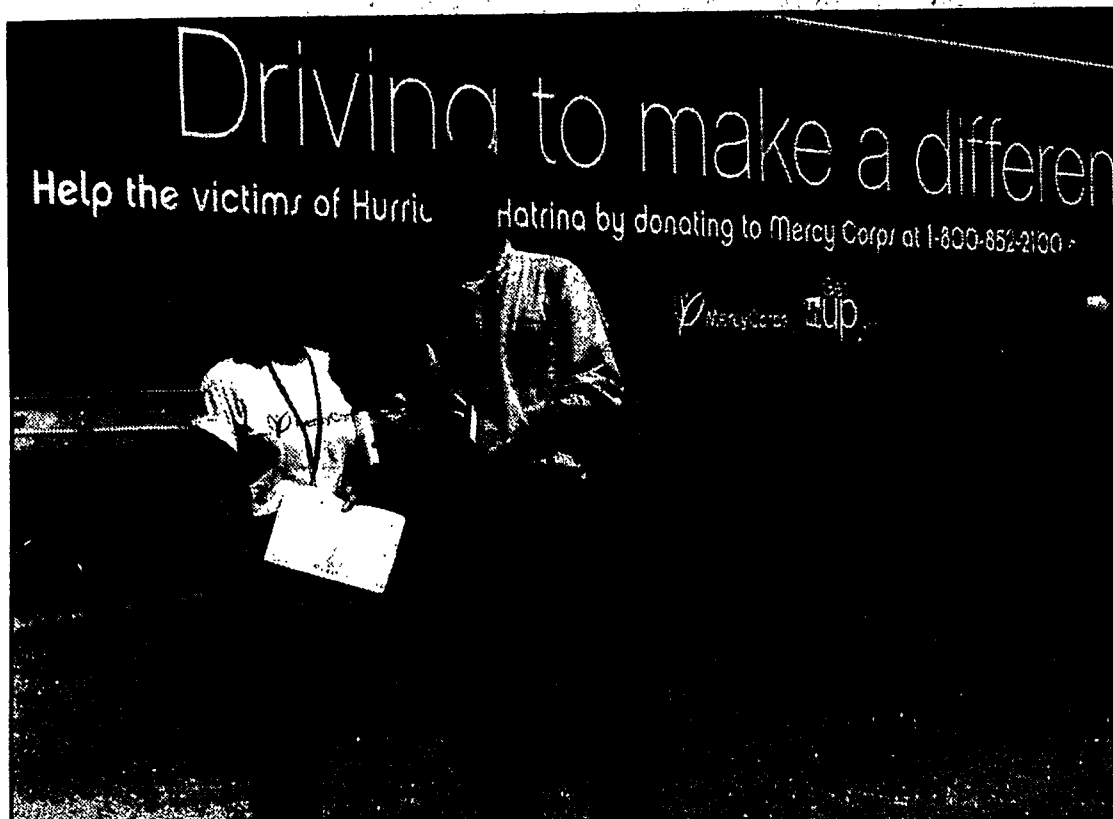


Gloria Spencer, left, of San Diego, California and Gina Garcia of Whittier, California prepare lunch at the Calvary Chapel's food tent in Bay St. Louis.

Echo staff photo by Bennie Shallbetter



Volunteer donations coordinator for Hancock County Joseph L. Williams helps unload chain saws donated by the VH1 Classic Hip Hop Awards.



Eric Block and Michelle Ingham of Mercy Corps arrive with donations from the VH1 Classic Hip Hop Awards.

VH1 Hip Hop Awards, Mercy Corps help victims of Hurricane Katrina

BY BENNIE SHALL-BETTER
Staff Writer

An unlikely group, International Aid, Mercy Corps and the VH1 Classic Hip Hops Awards have joined together to provide needed goods to our area. Hip Hop artists such as David Banner, Faith Evans, Fat Joe, Nellie and Ice T have donated goods from a list compiled by International Aid, compiled with the help of POD managers. International aid group Mercy Corps collected and delivered the goods to several locations Tuesday, along with other items donated by businesses.

DeLisle Elementary received backpacks filled with school supplies. The Hancock County Emergency Operations Center received power tools such as chain saws, along with paint rollers,

shovels and other cleanup and repair tools. International Aid is responsible for dispensing the donations.

International Aid is here to help in the ordering and distribution of donated goods throughout the affected area. They are here, they say, for as long as they are needed, whether that may be a month or a year, or longer. If there is a need, report it to POD managers and they will notify International Aid.

Mercy Corps is an International relief group based out of Portland, Oregon.

"It is rare that the group responds to anything domestic," said information specialist Eric Block. "But the devastation of Katrina

implored us to respond."

The group is currently providing relief in the hard hit areas of last Christmas' tsunami. Logistics manager Michelle Ingham, who has served in those areas said that the devastation along the Gulf Coast looks much like those areas.

"The only difference is that the houses were smaller and there was not as much debris," she said. "Much of it was pulled back out to sea."

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Beware of impostors offering help

Beware of impostors. Do not fill out assistance forms being distributed door-to-door by people pretending to be Red Cross workers. Red Cross services are available starting at 9 a.m. at Sav-a-Center.

SSC/OLA are reopening

St. Stanislaus College has been a vital part of our community since 1854. The school has operated continuously for over 150 years surviving fire, disease, war, depression, and hurricanes.

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St. Stanislaus and Our Lady Academy will re-

open on Tuesday, November 1. The two schools will operate on the St. Stanislaus campus.

New and returning students are welcome.

For more details to register, parents can check out the SSC website at www.ststan.com or contact the principals at 228-255-9629 for SSC or 228-822-2173 for OLA.

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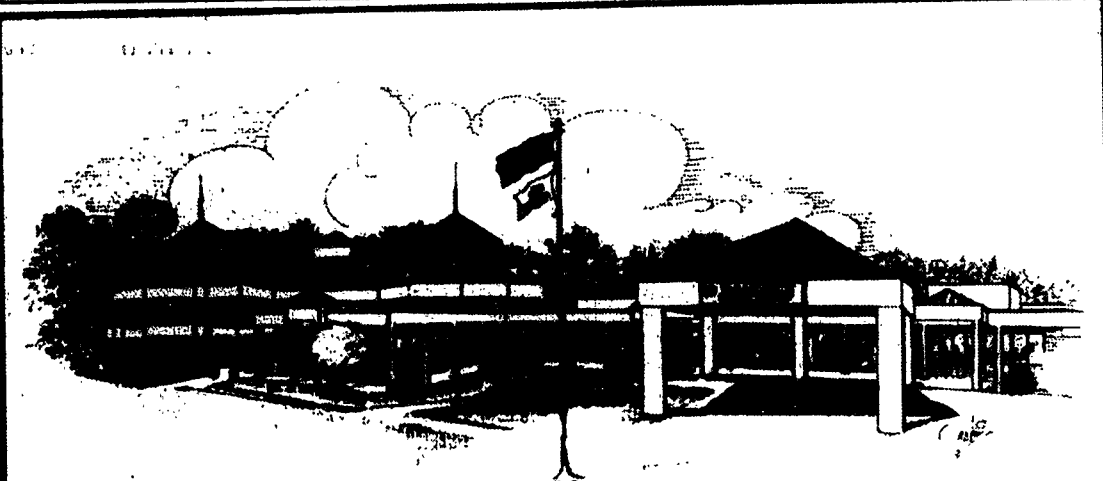
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Restoration professionals are replacing walls and flooring damaged by flooding on the first floor of the hospital. Our staff is working tirelessly to open the emergency department with new equipment and furnishings in early October. Other nursing units will follow shortly thereafter.

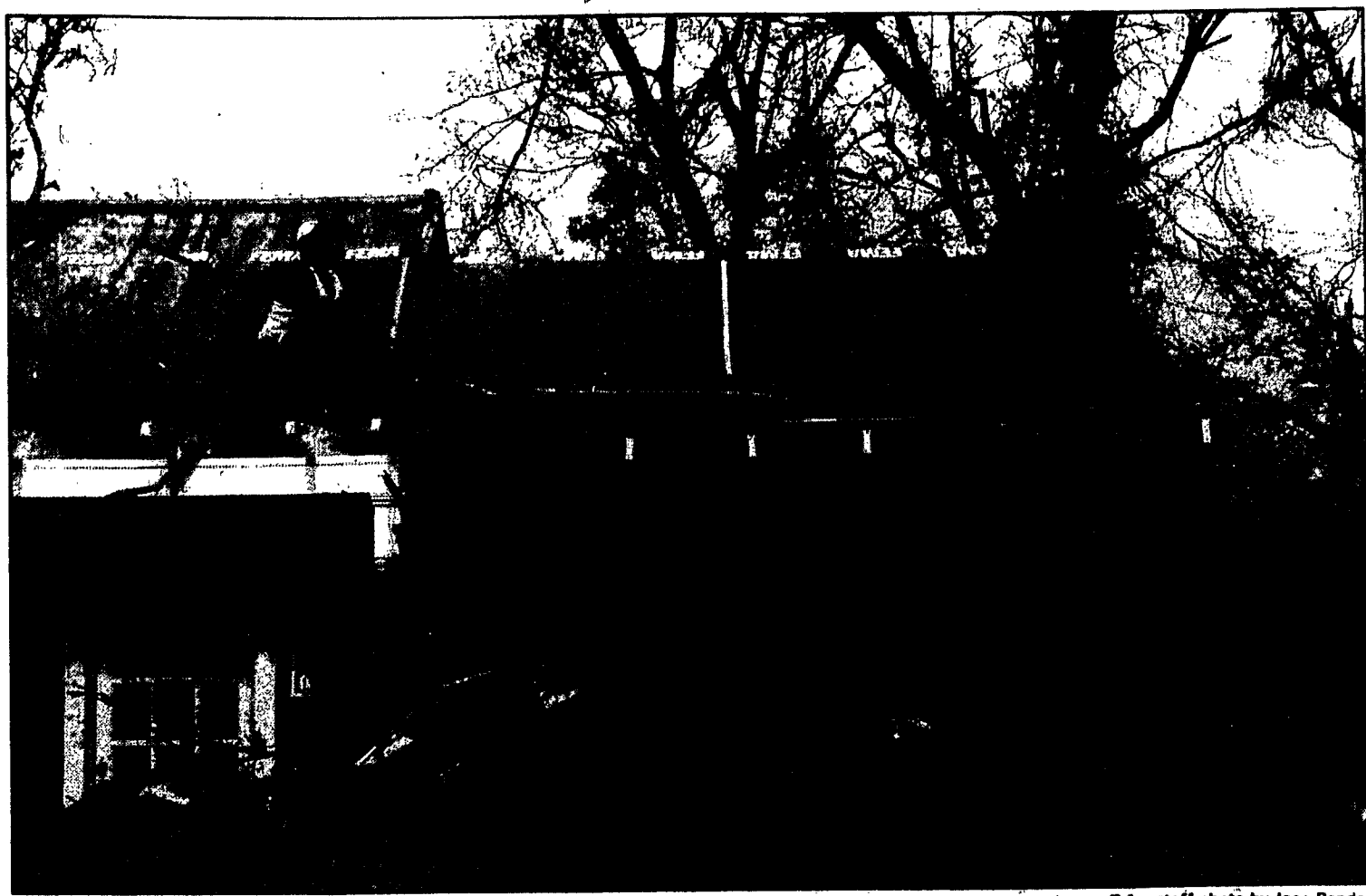
We are in constant contact with your local physicians. Several are currently seeing patients and others plan to open temporary offices in the near future. Our rural health clinics in Kiln (in the Dollar General parking lot) and Pearlinton (near the entrance to Port Bienville) are open at this time in temporary facilities.

HMC proudly commends the dedication and courage of our employees who continue to work despite tremendous personal losses. It is this spirit that defines our organization, and it is these caregivers and staff members who go above and beyond each day to provide you with the best in health services. Visit our website at www.hmc.org for additional updates.



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Blue Man Group



BLUE ROOFERS - Contract workers for FEMA's Blue Roof Program at work on Court St. in downtown Bay St. Louis on Thursday afternoon.

Echo staff photo by Jace Ponder

Obituaries

ODIS BOWEN DAVIS SMITH

Odus Bowen, 84, died Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005, at Brandon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Brandon.

Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. at the Batldwin-Lee Funeral Home in Pearl. Services will be 10 a.m. Friday at the funeral home chapel, with burial in Merchants Cemetery in White Oak.

Mr. Bowen was a native of Smith County and had lived in Waveland since 1975, moving from Crystal Springs. He was a member of Bayside Park Baptist Church, where he served as deacon. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict and a member of the American Legion.

Survivors are his wife, Judy Bowen of Waveland; daughters Linda Garth of Bay St. Louis, Lea Patrick and her husband Donnie, of Brandon; brothers Oree Bowen and Olen Bowen, both of Raleigh; sisters Gertrude Bryant and Gladys Huffmaster, both of Raleigh; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

DAVIS SMITH

Davis Hall Smith died August 29, 2005 in Waveland, Mississippi during hurricane Katrina. He was 60. He was born in Shelby, Mississippi on July 10, 1945. Grandson and namesake of Susie Davis Causey, he was a seventh generation Mississippian, a descendent of Mississippi pioneers Robert Talmadge Smith, Henry Thomas, Samuel Gattis, and Colonel William Causey, Sr., a veteran of the Revolutionary War who had settled in the then Mississippi Territory after the American Revolution.

As a child, he had survived the 1947 hurricane, being rescued by boat, along with his family, as the waters rose around their home in Cedar Point.

He graduated from Bay High School in 1963, where he lettered in football and track, and was active in the school chorus and theater productions. He attended Pearl River Junior College, served in the United States Marine Corps, and then attended Louisiana State University where he majored in journalism. He worked as a news writer for the Jackson Daily News-Clarion Ledger in Jackson from 1969 to 1972 while attending law school. He graduated from Jackson School of Law in 1972, and was admitted to the Mississippi bar in 1972. He won the 14th "million dollar" jury verdict in the history of the state of Mississippi in June 1986. He was a former Assistant City Attorney for the City of Jackson. He most recently worked for Cinco Land Energy of Houston, formerly had worked as a Landman for Texaco and several other oil companies, and was a member of several professional Landman associations. He had

returned to the Coast in 2001 and had been a resident of Waveland for the last four years. He was a member of St. Marki United Methodist Church in Brandon, MS.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hilton Hall Smith and Irene Thomas Smith of Bay Saint Louis, and a sister, Mary Sue Smith Loup of Baton Rouge.

He is survived by his three children, Amy Rhedessa Smith of Oxford, MS; Stephen Rhys Smith of Brandon, MS; Jenny Rebecca Smith of Hattiesburg, MS; three brothers, Samuel Stephen Smith of Bay Saint Louis; Joseph Thomas Smith of Baton Rouge, and Henry Hilton Smith of Terrytown, LA; two sisters, Marianne Smith of Bay Saint Louis and Peggy Smith Carpenter of Baton Rouge, LA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 30, 2005 at St. Rose Church in Bay St. Louis with Pastor M. Edward Murphy of Shoreline Park Baptist

church officiating. Visitation was from 10 a.m. until the services at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jenny R. Smith Education Fund at any Regions Bank.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

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Thank You



The Sea Coast Echo sends a
heart felt thank you to all who
have helped in the aftermath of
Katrina. Your assistance has
been vital in our recovery.

Ponderings

by James R. "Randy" Ponder
Editor and Publisher

Can you hear me now?

It is almost impossible to comprehend the massive amount of repair work, which Mississippi Power and Coast Electric Power Association have accomplished in such a short amount of time. Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, all of Mississippi Power's 195,000 customers were without power. Seventy percent of the company's 8,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines would have to be rebuilt. Well over 10,000 workers and 5,000 vehicles from around the country were brought in help handle this disaster. More than 6,000 poles and thousands of miles of wire have already been replaced. Just about every home and business able to accept power has been connected.

Coast Electric and Mississippi Power were able to respond to the huge destruction caused by Katrina for one basic reason. They had an emergency plan in place. They had supplies stockpiled and crews on standby. They were prepared for the worst and ready to respond quickly. These dependable companies had crews on the scene working almost as soon as Katrina's winds marched further inland.

As soon as the power was restored, the water began to flow again. People could now begin in earnest the back-breaking job of cleaning their homes and property.

The next highly visible crews on the scene were the cable guys, stringing their lines almost directly behind the power company crews. The cables to your homes may not be connected right now, but the main lines are already in place, ready and waiting.

We all owe a great deal of thanks to all the men and women involved in these heroic efforts to return Hancock County and its citizens to some sort of normalcy. I never expected in my wildest dreams to have power back on in my home 11 days after the hurricane. I figured it would take at least a month or more. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

There is another group which deserves our praise, the cellular phones companies. Although nothing worked for a few days, cellular service was pretty much the only way possible to communicate with the outside world and with one another. At first, people gathered at the foot of the old Highway 90 Bay Bridge because that was the only place to get a signal. Day-by-day the cellular service got better and better, until now, where it is possible to place a cellular call from just about anywhere.

And we still are forced to use cellular phone service because there are nearly no land lines. Why is this the case? In my opinion, it is because Bell South was totally unprepared for the wrath of Katrina. They have been woefully slow to respond. While thousands and thousands of power company vehicles and linemen were working day and night, seven days a week to restore power, I personally did not see a single Bell South work crew. Not one, nada, zilch, zero! I wonder what Ma Bell would think about her Babies today? We all depend upon the services provided by Bell South. Business communications, internet, email, etc. Without these services, we are cut-off from our normal forms of communications. It makes running a business much more difficult. Land lines don't work. Business phones do not work. Cell phone numbers are gold today. You have to have cell numbers to communicate. Without cell numbers, you have to get into your vehicle, if you are lucky enough to have one that works, and try to locate the person you need to talk with. Sort of like the not so good old days before phones.

Before I am accused of being totally unfair to Bell South, let me say this: I'm sure the company faces challenges which the power companies did not have to deal with. I'm sure Bell South is working on the problem, that they want their services up and running as much or more than anyone. But folks, it has now been more

PONDERINGS-PAGE 5

THE ONLY FINGER POINTING WE NEED

I WILL HELP!



Taylor's flood insurance bill to give aid to property owners

Congressman Taylor intends to introduce legislation on Tuesday to make flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) available for purchase, with penalty, to property owners affected by Hurricane Katrina who did not live in flood-plains and who did not have flood insurance. He had planned to introduce the bill on Thursday, Sept. 22, but decided to wait until Hurricane Rita makes landfall in the expectation that it also will cause extensive flooding outside the flood hazard zones.

Tens of thousands of homes, businesses, churches, and other buildings that were not in the flood hazard area but were severely damaged or destroyed by the unprecedented storm surge of 30+ feet. The

owners were not required or encouraged to purchase flood insurance by their lenders or insurers. Their insurers are denying coverage of damage caused by the storm surge.

FEMA assistance for uninsured losses is insufficient for major reconstruction. SBA disaster repair loans for substantial damage are not a reasonable or responsible option to add on top of an existing mortgage.

Under the Hurricane Katrina Flood Insurance Buy-In Act, the property owner would be required to pay the equivalent of NFIP premiums for 10 years (even if they have owned the property for a shorter period of time) plus a 5% penalty added on to the premium. This would help ensure that those who did not have flood insurance will not

come out better than those who have been paying the premiums. The premiums would be set at a rate equal to what would have been charged in the area prior to Katrina. The buy-in coverage will be for the structure only, not for contents. The amount of flood coverage will be limited to the amount of wind coverage in effect at the time, but not to exceed the statutory limit for NFIP coverage of \$250,000 for residential structures and \$500,000 for non-residential structures. The past premium

payments and penalty may be deducted from the claim payment. Property owners that buy-in to the flood insurance will be required to sign agreements that they will stay in the NFIP.

The bill will specify that funds must come from a separate appropriation of money (such sums as are necessary) so that the current policy holders in the NFIP are not adversely affected by the buy-in and the buy-in payments are not to be considered by NFIP in setting rates going forward.

Stennis approved for \$1.4M in repairs

Federal funding totaling \$1.4 million is approved for use at Stennis International Airport to repair damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, U.S. Senator Trent Lott said Thursday.

"Getting airports in this region fully functional is very important, especially in a hard-hit area like Hancock County and Bay St. Louis," Senator Lott said. Specifically, this package will help acquire aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicles, install or replace navigational equipment, rehabilitate the aircraft

building, rehabilitate the runway lighting, and rehabilitate the taxiway lighting.

The tidal surge from Hurricane Katrina flooded Stennis International Airport causing considerable damage to these facilities. This grant will be administered through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration.

It joins an almost \$1 million grant also approved today for repairs at Gulfport-Biloxi Airport which includes continuation of a terminal apron expansion which was underway prior to Katrina.

The Sea Coast Echo

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Geoff Belcher, News Editor

Ellis C. Cuevas, Publisher Emeritus

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Fighting Fires



Bay St. Louis Fire Rescue and the Fairfax Va. Fire Department tackle a blaze at an already-storm-ravaged home at 208 Sycamore St. on Friday afternoon. No one was home at the time of the fire.

Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher

Ponderings

Continued from Page 5

than a month since Katrina's un-welcomed visit and I still have no clue as to when my phones, home or office, will work again. This is

unacceptable.

Cable companies now offer "bundled services", including cable TV, high-speed internet and guess what, phone lines. I have

always been a very loyal customer of the Baby Bells, but after this debacle, I may just have to explore other options.

Can you hear me now?

List of MS legislators

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

Congressman Charles W. Pickering, MS 3rd District

229 Cannon HOB Washington, DC

20515 Telephone: 202-225-5876

Fax: 202-225-5797

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, MS 2nd District

2432 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC

20515 Telephone: 202-225-5876

Fax: 202-225-5898

Congressman Roger Wicker, MS 1st District 2455 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC

20515 Telephone: 202-225-4306

Fax: 202-225-3549

Congressman Gene Taylor has set up a temporary office at the Old Train Depot in Bay St.

Louis. He was working with FEMA to help residents overcome hurdles with the agency. Some residents who registered for assistance were declined. When this is the case, property owners should appeal the decision. FEMA has approved an Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) program that may cover the difference in cost up to \$10,000 between original construction requirements and new standards.

U.S. SENATORS

Sen. Thad Cochran 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC

20510 Telephone: 202-224-5024

Email: Cochran.senate.gov/contact.htm

Sen. Trent Lott 487 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C.

20510 Telephone: 202-224-6253

Email: SenatorLott@Lott.senate.gov

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Mississippi Emergency Management Agency:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

1-800-311-3435

American Red Cross:

Mississippi Department of Health:

General information:
1-866-HLTHY4U (1-866-458-4948)

Epidemiology reporting line:

1-800-556-0003

West Nile virus Hotline:

Mississippi Department of Health District Offices:

(As phone service is restored statewide)
District One: (662) 563-5603

Coahoma, Desoto, Grenada, Lee, Panola, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Quitman,

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District Two: (662) 841-9015

Alcorn, Benton, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee, Marshall, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union

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Additional resources for locating loved ones:

National Next of Kin Registry: 1-360-739-7206

American Red Cross: 1-877-LOVED-1S (1-877-568-3317)

Resource numbers for those who wish to help in the relief effort

To make donations:

American Red Cross: 1-800-HELP-NOW (1-800-435-7669)

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Donation Hotline:

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Salvation Army:

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First Baptist Church, Main St., 141 Main St., Bay St. Louis - 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-547-3114.

St. Rose, 301 South Necaise St., Bay St. Louis - 4 p.m. Saturday. 7 & 9 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-324-4927.

First Missionary, Sycamore St., Bay St. Louis - 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-547-5350.

Central Baptist Church, 1203 Hwy. 90, Bay St. Louis - 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-493-4796.

First Assembly of God, 1912 Arnold St.,

Waveland - 11 a.m. Sunday.

Word of Faith, 103 Old Spanish Tr. Waveland - 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-467-4488.

Latter Day Saints, McLaurin Ave, Waveland - 9 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-467-5009.

Our Lady of the Gulf, Beach Blvd., Bay St. Louis - 9 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-216-5400.

Lutheran Church of the Pines, Hwy 90, Waveland (across from McDonald's) - 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 985-774-6363.

First Presbyterian

Church, 114 Ulman Ave., Bay St. Louis - 11 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 757-362-8001.

Valena C. Jones AME, Sycamore St. Bay St. Louis - 11 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-304-0200.

Mt. Chapel, 721 Herlihy St., Waveland - 8 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-365-7275 or 228-424-1404.

St. Ann Catholic Church, 5858 Lower Bay Rd. - 9 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 228-365-4674.

Lakeshore Baptist Church, 6028 Lakeshore Rd. - 11 a.m. Sunday. Call for more information, 225-766-9526 or 504-460-9220.

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Lott -- in praise of S. Mississippians

Continued from Page 1

ing spirit."

Recovery efforts are well under way in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Lott said, thanks to outstanding efforts by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), the National Guard and the U.S. armed forces.

MDOT's efforts to rebuild the Coast's highways damaged by Katrina have been both faster and less costly than originally estimated, Lott said, and the National Guard and armed forces have been "outstanding" in their efforts to help clear debris and bring emergency food, water and supplies to the people.

He estimated that it will take between five and ten years to make the Coast as good or better

than it was before the storm: "We're maybe a step forward in a 10-step process," Lott said. "The biggest problem right now is temporary housing."

Unfortunately, he said, there have been drawbacks.

"You can't put lipstick on this pig," Lott said, referring to what he deemed the lackluster response of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm very disappointed in this bureaucracy ...," Lott said. "They're making an already difficult process even harder."

Thousands of South Mississippians are still living in tents or under tarps, he said, even though FEMA has deliv-

ered more than 4,000 travel trailers to the region for hurricane victims.

Lott said "there's no question" that FEMA should be removed from under the auspices of Homeland Security in order to function more quickly and efficiently.

"It was a mistake for Congress to do that in the first place," he said. "FEMA should be a separate, independent entity responding only to the president of the United States."

In FEMA's defense, Lott said, "Nobody expected and nobody even understood a few days after the storm" the extent of the damage wrought by Katrina.

"This was a disaster of biblical proportions," Lott said. "My house had

stood since 1854," and had withstood countless named and unnamed storms, including hurricanes Betsy and Camille, yet was destroyed by Katrina.

"This was a disaster that nobody was prepared for," he said. "Still, there's no excuse for a month later, not having the situation under control."

One of the biggest problems Hurricane Katrina's victims are facing right now, Lott said, is that many of them haven't been required to have flood insurance.

"Clearly, we have unique problems we've never had before," Lott

said. "I really do think the insurance companies have a responsibility here. ... Congress needs to say to the insurance industry 'You need to find a solution here.'"

If the industry doesn't come up with a solution, he said, Congress will, perhaps in the form of an insurance pool through

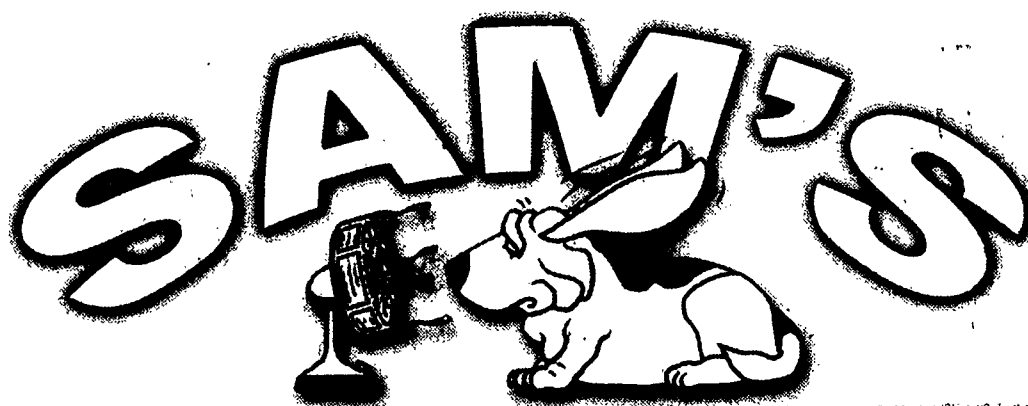
the National Flood Insurance Program.

"We know how hard it is" for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Lott said. "Our heart bleeds for them and our prayers are with them. I admire them very much for their fighting spirit."

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Waveland

Continued from Page 1

city are doing is too little, too late.

"It's not Tommy's fault," Kathy Pinn, president of the Coleman Ave. Coalition said Friday. "It's not Ronnie's fault, it's not FEMA's fault that this has happened here. It's Katrina's fault."

"We're moving faster than the (federal) system is, quite frankly," Longo said Friday. "They don't want people south of the tracks yet. It's not safe."

The debris is a major obstacle, Longo said, both because people could be hurt injured if they're in the way when the bulldozers come through and because it poses a major fire hazard if the power comes back on at a time when the city fire department is basically non-functioning.

"It doesn't make much sense to rush (the FEMA trailers) in," city building official Mike Home said. "We have to get cleaned up first, or else someone's going to get run over by a bulldozer."

Home said that the power companies are working to get new trunk lines operational south of the tracks, so that when there is space available for the FEMA trailers, power poles can be set up.

One thing people can do to improve their situations, Longo said, is to come to the city hut to fill out a Right of Entry Form so the government can come onto their property to remove the debris.

Hancock Chamber Director Tish Haas-Williams said that she is working with the board of supervisors to re-schedule Hazardous Waste Removal Day, which had been set for Oct. 15 but was bumped off the calendar after Katrina hit.

Another obstacle, Longo said, is that the federal government has not yet determined what its flood-related requirements will be to allow people to rebuild. It would be irresponsible of the city to begin issuing building permits to people who are

going to have to tear down what they've just built and re-build again to federal statutes.

That quagmire will be resolved "as soon as possible," Longo said, and will be done much quicker than the federal government is currently saying.

On Monday, city officials will fly over the city with NAVOCEANO to do a new topographical map of the area to help speed up the regulating process.

Many of those who showed up at the meeting Friday were angered that the emergency shelter at Second St. Elementary in Bay St. Louis was being closed as of Saturday morning.

Louise Johnson, director of the Bay St. Louis Senior Citizens Center - which is now operating as a shelter for storm victims - said Friday that "We have people in our shelter that have been here since the first day that are homeless ... but we see people living in their own houses getting these damn trailers. FEMA has not done right by the homeless. These homeless people should come first."

"We're a city/county shelter. Red Cross came in after 26 days and tried to take over and I said 'Don't try to fix us, 'cause we're not broke.'"

Johnson said that the decision to close the 2nd St.

Elementary shelter now is ridiculous.

"I wish I could give you a perfect answer," Longo said. "I'm working on it every day."

"The reason we had this meeting was to give people an opportunity to vent," Longo said on Saturday. "There were a lot of angry emotions. ... A lot of people are angry at FEMA, and frankly, I haven't been real pleased, either."

At least 60 percent of the homes in Waveland have been destroyed, he said, and another 20 percent are uninhabitable due to wind and water damage and mold growth.

Overall, though, he said he's pleased with the recovery efforts so far. He commended businesses such as Hubbard's Hardware and Markel Lumber, which despite being storm-ravaged themselves, have opened up and are helping people with the rebuilding process. "They have shown the heart and the backbone of our people in Waveland," he said. "They have been the epitome of it."

"We're way ahead of where FEMA and MEMA and all those other agencies thought we were going to be ...," he said. "We have one hell of an opportunity to build back a better city. It would be a shame if we didn't do it right."

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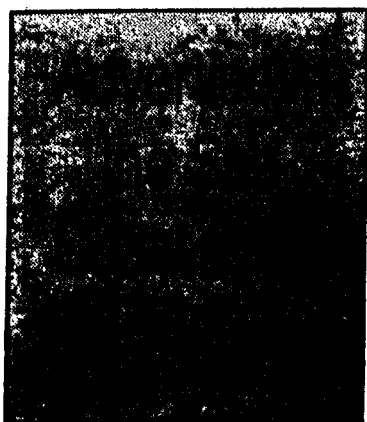


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Calvary -- hot food, warm hearts

Continued from Page 1

time, and money, to help bring a little hope to people who have lost everything. They dispense kind words, friendship, and prayers along with tuna fish sandwiches.

The group say they are here for the long haul, until they are no longer needed. Their main purpose, says visiting Horizon Christian Fellowship missionary Chevon Clarke, "is to clean and rebuild homes for the Bay St. Louis and Waveland police and fire department."

The food service was secondary as they saw the need to help at Billy's Country Kitchen set up across from the Bay fire department. When Billy's shut down, they

took up the slack, Clarke said. Teams rotate on a weekly basis. The group feeds 3,000 people a day.

They operate with help from the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, individuals and perhaps more importantly with help from above, says Steve Moreno of Montebello, California.

"When a need appears it just has a way of being filled," he says.

The group's inspiration is two-fold. Calvary Pastor Lance Cook of the La Habra, California chapel, had a vision which instructed him to help the victims of disaster, says volunteer Steve Moreno.

"We are just following along with his vision,"

said Moreno. "We are trying to offer comfort, not just feed people. We offer food, talk, and pray with with people if they need that. As long as you have consistency along with the chaos, it works."

Another inspiration for the group of volunteers is first responder at 9/11 Mike Macintosh, who wrote a book about his experience, *When Your World Falls Apart*. Macintosh saw the need to train others to help offer support to those who are the victims of disasters. He completed training with the Red Cross to respond to aviation disasters and his first call, as his training was complete, was to 9/11.

The volunteers, who

come from all walks of life and social and economic backgrounds, commit a week of their time and make a financial commitment as well.

"We want people to understand that this is not a vacation, it is a serious commitment," said Clarke.

Gina Garcia of Whittier, California was called to serve while attending a Wednesday night service at her local chapel. A call for volunteers is issued at services and then those whose hearts are truly inspired to respond do so, said Moreno.

Garcia said she had been watching the cover-

age of Katrina and felt a somewhat inadequate about how she could help. She listened to the call for volunteers, but figured she could never respond, being a wife and the mother of two small children. But after that Wednesday evening service, her husband came to her and encouraged her to go.

"I feel the Lord brought me here," said Garcia. "And now that I am here I realize that the news media could never describe it to anyone, it is surreal. I want people to know and I don't want them to forget."

Moreno says he was stirred to respond to the

call for help for two reasons, because of his love for Jesus and to pass that love on as an example to his children. The rewards, he says, are great.

"The rewards are so bountiful that for the next ten years I will have things to share with others, with my children, of my experience," said Moreno.

"We are so spoiled and many of these people have nothing. But yet they are all so nice. We come from many different backgrounds, but we are all like minded. Everybody here is on the same wavelength; we want to help."

Insurance

Continued from Page 1

not be covered, that the plaintiffs found out about the policy's downfall.

An exclusion in the policy states that losses resulting from flood, surface water, waves, tidal water, tsunami, seiche, overflow of a body of water, or spray from any of these, all whether driven by wind or not, were not covered."

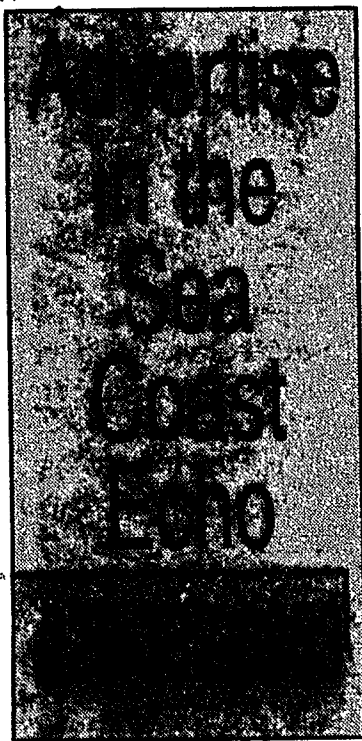
Lebouf and Lee are now homeless and say they have no hope of rebuilding without insurance coverage. They claim that that the policy

sold to them which they had faithfully paid for and depended on is useless and without value. They also allege that State Farm is negligent in training its agents to properly handle the insurance needs of their customers. The company "tricked them and other Mississippi citizens" the suit states.

Plaintiffs are asking for both full policy coverage and punitive damages, as well as attorney fees, court costs and pre-judgement interest.

Second Saturday to return Oct. 8

Second Saturday is slated for October 8 from 4 to 8 p.m. Jessie and Carrie will be performing at Clay Creations, 220 Main St.



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8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

West Biloxi
2560 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Orange Grove
12020 Highway 49 North
Gulfport, MS 39503
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Downtown Biloxi Main Office
152 Lambeuse Street
Biloxi, MS 39530
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Handsboro
412 East Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39507
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ocean Springs
2015 Bienville Boulevard
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Diamondhead
4408 West Aloha Drive
Diamondhead, MS 39525
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Gautier
2601 Highway 90
Gautier, MS 39553
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saucier
17689 Second Street
Saucier, MS 39574
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

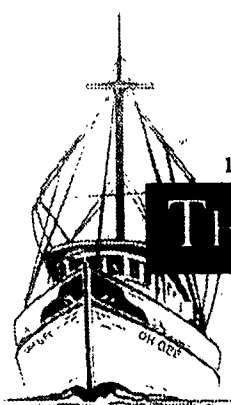
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Sports

Hawks show fighting spirit in loss to Greyhounds

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Contributing Writer

Five weeks ago, the Hancock Hawks began their season with a disappointing loss to cross town rival Bay High. Two days after that game, Hurricane Katrina changed the lives of everyone in Hancock County.

Hancock High School made a decision last week to finish its football season, and the Hawks are playing a seven game district schedule. It is a tall order, considering the Hawks lost nearly a third of their team because of Katrina, including seven starters. The Hawks, however, do not want anyone to feel sorry for them or to expect anything less. "We are here to play football. I'm so thankful to have the chance to finish my senior season," said Donovan Saucier. "I had a chance to go to another school in Jackson, but my heart is here, this is where I wanted to finish the sea-

son," said senior Colin Miller.

The Hawks started practice on Monday, and armed with 25 junior high players that dressed out for the game, the Hawks traveled to Ocean Springs Friday night to play the #1 team on the Gulf Coast the Ocean Springs Greyhounds (3-1).

The Hawks held their own for nearly three quarters against the powerful Greyhounds, but the starters playing both ways eventually wore the Hawks down late, and the Greyhounds added some scores for a 42-6 final score.

The Hawks played with heart and pride and they made all of the parents and fans of Hancock High School proud, not just because they played, but because of the way they played. The kids of Hancock County may not have been winners on the football field Friday night, but they were winners in the game of life.

The Hawks took advantage of the high

emotion to start the game. Andrew Smith took the opening kickoff in at the five. Great blocking opened up a huge hole, and Smith rumbled 47 yards to the Greyhound 48. The Hawks started on offense, and after a short run by Smith, a personal foul penalty on the Greyhounds gave the Hawks a first down at the 32. Two plays later, Braxton Necaie sent a beautiful pass over the middle that was hauled in by Chris Jochum in the endzone. The Hawks had shocked the Greyhounds, and took a 6-0 lead. The point after failed.

The Greyhounds took over at the 36, after the kickoff. The Hawks defense quickly made two nice plays, as Braxton Necaie stopped a run for no gain, and a swarm of Hawks led by Chase MacIver and Brently Necaie stopped the next play for a nine yard loss. The Greyhounds then went to the air, and their All-American tight-end

Richard Dixon. Dixon had a 36-yard catch, and seven plays later Dixon hauled in a 17-yard touchdown. The point after made the score 7-6 with 6:00 to play in the first.

After a Hawks punt, the Greyhounds put together a seven play drive that covered 66 yards, ending in an 18-yard scoring run. With 1:25 to play in the first the Greyhounds led 14-6.

The Hawks would get good defense on the Greyhounds next possession. After stuffing two runs, a bad exchange led to a fumbled, that Brently Necaie covered at the 50.

The Hawks collected a first down to the 35, after a pass interference call, but the Hawks could not get any closer, and turned the ball over on downs.

The Greyhounds would score late in the second quarter on a 56-yard bomb to Chase Cooper. The extra point made the score 21-6.

The Greyhounds made a final effort to score

before the half, but Braxton Necaie intercepted a pass with :44 seconds left to stop the drive.

The Hawks defense hung tough to start the third quarter. After a 25-yard run, Brently Necaie stripped the ball from a Greyhound runner, and Jochum picked up the loose ball, and returned it to the 43 of the Greyhounds.

The Hawks offense did not do anything with the field position, and punted the ball back to the Greyhounds.

The Greyhounds took over at the 32, and they put together a seven play drive that ended the competitive part of the game. The Greyhounds would add two more scores late, and the final score was 42-6.

"The score was no indication of how hard we played. I am so proud of our kids. We are going to keep practicing and getting better. If the kids keep working hard, then we can make this season into something special,"

said head Coach Walt Esslinger.

The Hawks had good performances for several players. Andrew Smith carried 15 times for 80 yards, including an exciting 36-yard rumble in which Smith broke five tackles. Smith also added a 19-yard reception. Braxton Necaie completed 4 of 14 passes for 82 yards. Drew Malley had a 20-yard catch, and Drew Esslinger had a 12-yard catch.

On defense, Brently Necaie had 13 tackles, with a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Kevin LaFontaine and Jesse Stennet had good games up front with seven tackles each. Chase MacIver and Trey Mcleod had six tackles.

"These kids squeezed every ounce of energy they had tonight. It's going to be exciting to see what the kids can do" Esslinger said.

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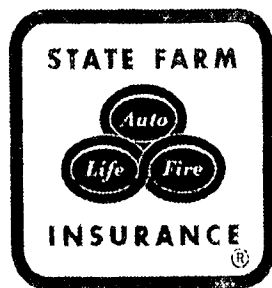
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Special Hurricane Katrina Edition!

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hit in Bay St. Louis, Miss., on Friday, Sept. 2 2005. Schulz was in the building when Hurricane Katrina hit. As the building started to collapse they fled and his mother-in-law, who stayed, perished. Schulz said, "I think I'd have it made". (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)



Management Agency volunteer crews rescue the Taylor family from the roof of their home on US 90 after it flooded during Hurricane Katrina on Monday in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

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Hancock Recovery Update

FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION: • Pick up the latest Sea Coast Echo

• Tune to 103.5 FM WQRZ-LP. Updates happen at 8 a.m., noon and 5 p.m.

• Call Hancock County Information Lines, Monday thru Friday at: (228) 466-8234

• Visit our Web site at hancockcountveoc.blogspot.com

FEMA TRAILER MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS? Call 1-866-877-6075.

MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS CREWS for Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District report to work Wednesday, October 5, 9 a.m. at the central office bus yard.

FREE WELL WATER TESTING is available at the Kiln Library.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS: Power is coming on, but stay away from downed power lines as they may be live and dangerous.

NO FIRES. BURN BAN IS IN EFFECT.

BEWARE OF impostors. Do not fill out assistance forms being distributed door to door by people pretending to be Red Cross workers. **RED CROSS SERVICES** are available starting at 9 a.m. at Sav-a-Center and tetanus and hepatitis shots are available free of charge.

SCHOOL HOTLINE LAUNCHED. Parents, faculty, and staff in the Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District should check 228-467-6621 daily for updates. Breakfast and lunch will be served year long and will be free for at least the first 30 days of school.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PAYCHECKS AVAILABLE. Bay St. Louis-Waveland School staff who do not have direct deposit can pick up checks from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow, September 30 at the Bay St. Louis Police Department on Old Spanish Trail.

BAY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY RE-OPENING ON OCTOBER 3. New and returning students can register on campus at 301 South 2nd Street, Bay St. Louis, on Thurs., Sept. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or online at www.bay-catholic.org. For more info, call Principal Buras at 985-285-6597.

REGISTER STUDENTS in the Hancock County School District beginning October 14 at the school they will attend.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS WILL NOT BE MANDATORY at Hancock County public schools.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED. Governor Haley Barbour extended Hurricane Katrina's State of Emergency and declared a Hurricane Rita State of Emergency.

PEOPLE ACCEPTING EMERGENCY HOUSING in an Emergency Group Site will not lose their places in line to have emer-

gency housing placed on their property. If you live in an Emergency Group Site, **DO NOT MOVE** the mobile home. It's federal property.

PROPERTY OWNERS. New standards for flood regulations are being considered. Protect yourself and check with the county or city you live in for new permitting regulations before beginning restoration of your property.

HICKORY BRIDGE is closed and will remain closed for the next few weeks.

FEMA's DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER and the **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

providing home and business loans are located in the K-Mart lot. Call 228. 466.8212 to schedule a bus to the center.

FREE MEDICAL SERVICES:

• Hancock Medical Center, 24-7, off Hwy 90
• North Carolina Medical, 24-7, at K-Mart, intersection of Hwy 90 and 603.

• The Old Train Depot, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week at Bookter and Depot Way.

COUNTY WIDE RESTRICTIONS:

• Curfew South of 1-10 is in effect from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.
• Curfew North of 1-

10 is in effect from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS: Visit the new temporary office at 17343 Highway 603, Suite E, across from the Hancock County School District building in Kiln. Phones are 1-800-433-3318 for the American Legion and 317-955-3845 for the Auxiliary.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF can provide free assistance to families with tarping, chainsaw work, and mud outs. Sign up at Bayou Tallah Fellowship Church located at 18555 Highway 43 in Kiln.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED: Phillips Pest Control is looking for Pest Control Technicians and Termite Technicians to run termite renewals for the Gulf Coast area. Experience is preferred. Pay is based on experience. Call 228-255-3700 or 228-868-3700

WANTED: lot for building or existing home in the BSL area. Some damage ok. Call 228-216-0458

HELP WANTED: Kuttin

Loose in Kiln, MS has positions available for stylist and nail techs. Call 255-5363.

FOR SALE: 1993 Holiday Rambler Travel Trailer. 34 foot, sleeps 6. \$8200. Call 228-342-2938.

FOR SALE: 749 Webb St. in Bay St. Louis. Stayed high and dry - did not flood! 4,700 sq ft home, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, storage room, office, laundry room, Florida room, large kitchen w/plenty of cabinets

and storage, plus a bonus room. Many custom features including jacuzzi in large master bathroom. \$385,000 as is (some roof damage). Call (228)466-2645.

FOR RENT: 215 Main Street - Bay St. Louis, commercial. 1500 sq ft (228) 342-0012.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE: ABC Rental is now hiring all positions - full time, paid vacation, 401K plan, medical plan. 1190 Highway 90 - 467-1081.

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Company offers an excellent compensation and benefits package. Send resume and salary requirements to:

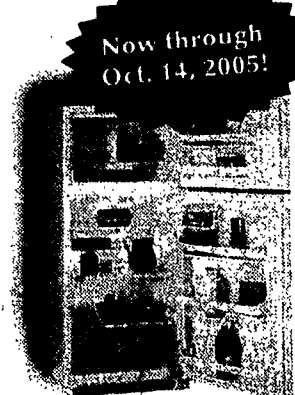
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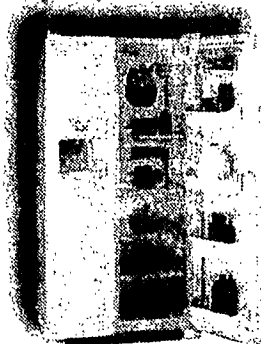
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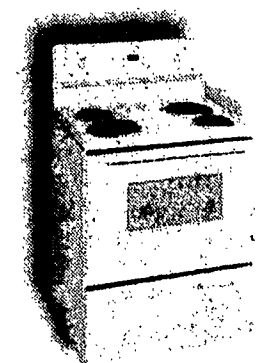
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MODEL FEF326AS \$308/75
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MODEL TPF303BW
Features: 30" Manual Clean Oven, Broil & Serve Drawer
COLOR: WHITE MSRP: \$320

\$293 OR \$26*
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FRIGIDAIRE GAS RANGE
MODEL FGF316BS
Features: 10" tall Backguard Design, Manual Clean Oven with Window, Broil and Serve Drawer with Handle
MSRP \$349

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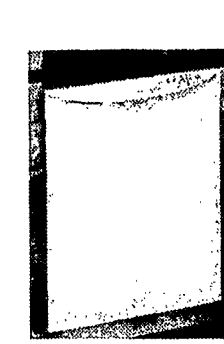
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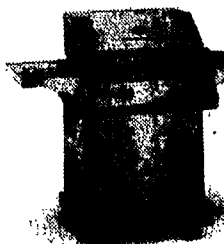


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MODEL FDB948NES
Features: 5-level Precision Wash System, Holds 14 Place Settings, UltraQuiet III™ Sound Insulation Package
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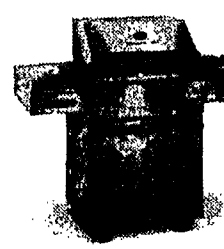


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Green industry is reeling from impact of Hurricane Katrina

BY BONNIE COBLENTZ
MSU Ag Communications

Hurricane Katrina literally blew away millions of dollars of the state's horticulture industry centered in coastal counties hardest hit by the storm.

"Before the storm, Mississippi had close to a billion dollar horticulture industry," said Kerry Johnson, area horticulture agent with the Mississippi State University Extension Service in George County. "Several hundred retailers, greenhouses, landscapers and nurseries operated in south Mississippi, and the industry had rebounded from the setback it experienced after Sept. 11."

After Katrina marched through the state and its neighbors, the industry is reeling with infrastructure devastation, destroyed inventory and lost markets. Greenhouses have been knocked down or damaged, plants are blown over, broken, uprooted and submerged, growing areas have been flooded,

and offices and computer systems destroyed.

Many producers in the industry lost both their businesses and their homes.

"We have severe damage and destruction to the coastal nursery industry, and it's hard to put a dollar value on it, but we are assessing it now," Johnson said.

Norman Winter, Extension horticulture specialist, said early estimates show a \$17 million to \$19 million loss to producers, but that number can easily grow.

"Katrina brought devastating damage to the industry's structures, but she dealt a much harder blow to the retail garden centers, landscape construction, maintenance and markets," Winter said. "Growers who survived the hurricane found themselves sitting with thousands of dollars of plants that were headed to the Gulf Coast or New Orleans and now there's no place to sell them."

Johnson said because nurseries and greenhouses work with live plants,

they cannot hold their inventory for long.

"We've lost cash flow for months at a minimum. One of the nurseries told me this is the first week he has ever recorded zero sales during the summer," Johnson said.

Winter said gardening halted in the weeks after the storm as people dug out of the rubble, watched the news, helped others and were careful about spending money.

In response to the loss of markets, Johnson said out-of-state retailers and organizations are being asked to consider buying Mississippi products.

"I am highly recommending that buyers of nursery goods make it their goal to buy Mississippi products, now more than ever," Johnson said. "There is a need. People outside the region who want to help can do to now by purchasing our state's horticultural products."

Businesses that plan to rebuild also must decide the fate of their employees. With the infrastruc-

ture of many of these horticulture business destroyed and without customers coming to spend money, many businesses have no way to keep their employees.

Winter said the horticulture industry should get an economic boom when companies and homeowners rebuild, and landscaping again becomes important. Some estimate it will be February before that happens, but others are optimistic that Christmas will bring a better market.

Agriculture shipping hurt by the hurricane

BY BONNIE COBLENTZ
MSU Ag Communications

Hurricane Katrina closed the three ports serving Mississippi agricultural commodities, so products leaving the state face new challenges and increased costs.

The Port of Gulfport was wiped clean of its infrastructure, the Port of Pascagoula was damaged, and the Port of New Orleans, while not substantially damaged, has little infrastructure and few employees left to support it. All three served Mississippi producers.

Almost 60 percent of U.S. grain goes through the Port of New Orleans, according to the National Feed and Grain Association. The Wall Street Journal reported that ports in the affected area handle 20 percent of the nation's total imports and exports.

The Port of New Orleans served Mississippi River traffic. John Anderson, agricultural economist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, estimated that half of the state's grain exports passed through New Orleans.

"With that port down for maybe up to four weeks, there have been concerns that we might lose some export business," Anderson said. "With the river traffic disrupted and the ports out of commission, alternative means of transportation will have to be used."

Much of Mississippi's grain crop is used in-state

for the poultry and catfish industries, but many elevators in the Delta ship grain out on the river. Anderson said that trucks, trains and other means of transportation will have higher costs than river transport on a barge, and this will be reflected in both commodity prices and industry profits.

However, by shortly after Labor Day, some river traffic was moving again and the Port of New Orleans had begun to resume some business activities.

"There are a lot of challenges remaining for these ports to overcome, things like restoring electricity and getting workers on site, but these ports have made remarkable progress," Anderson said.

Other ports available to Mississippi exports include Mobile, Tampa, Houston, Baton Rouge and Galveston.

"The question is how much capacity do we have at the other ports and how much will it cost to get shipments to these other locations," Anderson said. "All these shipments have to be diverted to somewhere else until these ports can get up and running."

The poultry industry relied heavily on the Port of Gulfport and to a lesser degree the Port of Pascagoula to export chicken. In addition to the capacity to load and unload shipping freight, Gulfport had extensive refrigerated warehouses to store the meat prior to shipment.

Mike Pepper, presi-

dent of the Mississippi Poultry Association, said most of the U.S. chicken exported to Russia passed through Gulfport.

"That port is wiped out as of now. It's too early to assess when Gulfport may be rebuilt. There's even some talk of moving the port to a new location," Pepper said.

He said the Port of Mobile is in good shape and is handling some of the poultry exports that previously were sent to Gulfport. Other ports being called into extra duty to serve the poultry industry include Houston, Pensacola, Jacksonville and Savannah.

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TO OUR CONCERNED FRIENDS, CLIENTS
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Moore & Powell has weathered Hurricane Katrina and is currently open and operating in our Diamondhead, Mississippi office. Like many of you, our Bay St. Louis office sustained significant damage. However, all of our data and files are safe. Together, we will rebuild.

During this trying process, we are here for you. We can assist you with tax and insurance loss calculations, loan applications and any other matters pertaining to the recovery process. All tax returns and tax payments, including quarterly estimated taxes, that are due after August 29, 2005 are extended until January 3, 2006. A link to the IRS' website is available on our website at www.moorepowell.com.

Should you have any questions, we are located at:

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If you have questions about filing for claims, or anticipate settlements... please call 1-888-237-9491 or come by our D'Iberville or Ocean Springs location.

The hurricane has taken away a lot, but we're still here to serve you, just as we have been for almost four decades.

We appreciate everything the people of D'Iberville and Ocean Springs have done for us. Now, Mandal is in a position to extend a helping hand.

Please accept this sincere invitation. If you need transportation, Mandal Pontiac Buick GMC will do whatever it takes to help.

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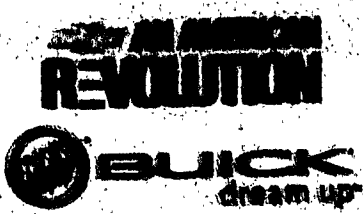
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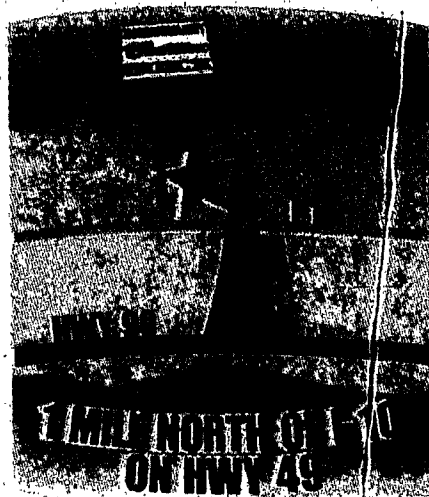
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